

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 488

2 INTRODUCED BY C. JUNEAU

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING LICENSURE PROVISIONS FOR ADDICTION  
5 COUNSELORS; PHASING OUT THE GRANTING OF LICENSURE TO THOSE WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREES;  
6 AMENDING SECTION 37-35-202, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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10 **Section 1.** Section 37-35-202, MCA, is amended to read:

11 **"37-35-202. (Temporary) Licensure requirements -- examination -- fees.** (1) To be eligible for  
12 licensure as a licensed addiction counselor, the applicant shall submit an application fee in an amount  
13 established by the department by rule and a written application on a form provided by the department that  
14 demonstrates that the applicant has completed the eligibility requirements and competency standards as defined  
15 by department rule.

16 (2) A person may apply for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor if the person has:

17 (a) received a baccalaureate degree in alcohol and drug studies, psychology, sociology, social work,  
18 counseling, or a related field from an accredited college or university;19 (b) received an associate of arts degree in alcohol and drug studies, addiction, or substance abuse from  
20 an accredited institution; or21 (c) successfully completed at least 1 year of formalized training in addiction counseling in a program  
22 approved by the department or recognized under the laws of another state.23 (3) Prior to becoming eligible to begin the examination process, each person shall complete supervised  
24 work experience in an addiction treatment program as defined by the department, in an internship approved by  
25 the department, or in a similar program recognized under the laws of another state.26 (4) Each applicant shall successfully complete a competency examination process as defined by rules  
27 adopted by the department.28 (5) A person holding a license to practice as a licensed addiction counselor in this state may use the  
29 title "licensed addiction counselor".30 **37-35-202. (Effective January 1, 2004) Licensure requirements -- examination -- fees.** (1) To be

1 eligible for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor, the applicant shall submit an application fee in an amount  
2 established by the department by rule and a written application on a form provided by the department that  
3 demonstrates that the applicant has completed the eligibility requirements and competency standards as defined  
4 by department rule.

5 (2) A person may apply for licensure as a licensed addiction counselor if the person has:

6 (a) received a baccalaureate degree in alcohol and drug studies, psychology, sociology, social work,  
7 counseling, or a related field from an accredited college or university; or

8 (b) (i) received an associate of arts degree prior to [the effective date of this act]; or

9 (ii) began a course of study in alcohol and drug studies, addiction, or substance abuse from an  
10 accredited institution prior to [the effective date of this act] and received an associate of arts degree before July  
11 1, 2006.

12 (3) Prior to becoming eligible to begin the examination process, each person shall complete supervised  
13 work experience in an addiction treatment program as defined by the department, in an internship approved by  
14 the department, or in a similar program recognized under the laws of another state.

15 (4) Each applicant shall successfully complete a competency examination process as defined by rules  
16 adopted by the department.

17 (5) A person holding a license to practice as a licensed addiction counselor in this state may use the  
18 title "licensed addiction counselor".

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20 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2004.

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